in the CIS entities which are not registered with SEBI. SEBI has broadcast educative message for investors through national hook-up and regional stations of Vividh Bharati as well national channel and regional stations on Doordarshan. So far, criminal prosecution under Section 24 of SEBI Act, 1992 has been launched against 140 entities and their Directors and requests have been made to police authorities to file the first information reports against 49 CIS entities for offences such as criminal breach of trust cheating etc. Besides, 155 entities have informed by way of winding up and repayment report/advertisement/letters/submission during hearing before SEBI that they have repaid over Rs. 1342 crore to their investors.

Floating of tax free bonds by commercial banks

1288. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of commercial banks have approached Government for the permission to float tax-free bonds;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) by when the commercial banks are likely to issue tax-free bonds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. Only one bank has approached Reserve Bank of India/Government for tax saving bonds.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increase in black money

1289. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accumulation of black money is on rise in the country;

(b) what is the estimated amount of black money as on 31st December, 2002;